

February 27, 1976

SENATOR DICKINSON: Would it be fair to say, Senator Dworak, that to some degree, maybe not to the 100% degree that you would like to see, that this land is now wildlife habitat due to its very nature that you just described?

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Dickinson, some of this land now is wildlife habitat, but with the economic crunch the farmer faces, more of this marginal land is being taken out of production for one reason or another as we debated 488. It was felt that some of this marginal land, if it would just be taken off the tax rolls, would provide the farmer enough incentive to keep this land out of production. This then would allow the leasing and taking of easements and the acquisition of this type of marginal land.

SENATOR DICKINSON: All right, Senator Dworak, if, in fact, the land is being taken out....that you expect to acquire could, in fact, be put into production, your bill provides...I guess maybe I am getting a little off the subject, but the Game Commission will pay in lieu of taxes. Am I correct in assuming that in lieu of taxes would be for the very, very low tax that the land produces now, and not what it may produce twenty years from now, if, in fact, it is needed and would have been put into production?

SENATOR DWORAK: I would think that is a correct statement, Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: This concerns me very much. I think this is...we are then depleting the ability of this, of our farmland in Nebraska to produce not only food for ourselves and the world but produce taxes for all level of government that land supports. If it is take out of the use it is now and made more productive, I think that is the way it ought to be, and if the Game Commission acquires it, it would seem reasonable to assume that it will never be unacquired by the Game Commission. They will never relinquish it for another purpose. So that is my reason for asking to strike the word "acquisition". If they can lease land for a specified term, and then if it becomes obvious that that land has a more valuable purpose for some other purpose, it should be available and still someone's choice that it may then be converted to some other use. Whereby if the Game Commission owns it, it seems obvious it never would. So I would hope that I could get support on my amendment to strike the word. Thank you, Senator Dworak. To strike the word "acquisition" from this bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, did you wish to speak to this? Senator Maresh. Senator Syas, did you wish to speak to this amendment?

SENATOR SYAS: Yes, and I still want to speak on the bill when it comes up.

PRESIDENT: We may get there today, Senator.